

Claims

What is claimed is:

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1. An apparatus comprising:

a label reader capable of reading information from a
label;

10 a communication unit capable of communicating information
to one or more information interfaces;

an operation unit having one or more operational
parameters that may be adjusted; and

15 a controller ,coupled the label reader, the communication
unit and the operation unit, arranged to (1) receive information
from the label reader, (2) send a request to one or more of the
information interfaces through the communication unit, (3) receive a
response from the information interface, and (4) adjust the
operation parameters of the operation unit in accordance with the
response,

20 where in the request and the response are formatted as
documents capable of being exchanged in a distributed, decentralized
environment.

2. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus and the information interface communicate in a client/server network.

5 3. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the documents comprise XML documents.

4. The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the XML documents are expressed as SOAP messages.

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5. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the operation unit comprises a consumer product-type apparatus.

6. The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a
15 context sensor coupled to the controller.

7. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the one or more information interface respond by sending a profile associated with label information contained within the request from the
20 apparatus.

8. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the label reader comprises an RFID reader or a barcode reader.

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9. An apparatus comprising:

a memory; and

a processor coupled to the memory and operative read
information from a tag, communicate the information to an
5 information interface, receive a response from the information
interface, and adjust an operation parameter of an operation unit in
accordance with the response,

where in the request and the response are formatted as
documents capable of being exchanged in a distributed, decentralized
10 environment.

10. The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the apparatus
and the information interface communicate in a client/server
network.

15 11. The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the documents
comprise XML documents.

12. The apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the XML
20 documents are expressed as SOAP messages.

13. The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the operation
unit comprises a consumer product-type apparatus.

14. The apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a context sensor coupled to the controller.

15. The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the information interface responds by sending a profile associated with label information contained within the request from the apparatus.

16. The apparatus according to Claim 11, further comprising a micro XML parser

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17. The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the tag comprises an RFID or barcode tag.

18. A resource constrained device comprising:

means for reading tags;

communication means for communicating information read from the tags to a remote device;

receiving means for receiving a response comprising an XML document from the remote device, the receiving means including a micro XML parser;

operational means for performing a task, the operational means including adjustable operational parameters modifying the performance of the task;

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wherein the adjustable operational parameters are adjusted in accordance with the received response.

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19. The device according to Claim 18, wherein said means for reading comprises an RFID or barcode reader.

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